

REMARKS:

Claims 20, 23, and 25-28 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated March 14, 2003, claims 18-19 and 24 were rejected, and claim 23 was allowed. The Office Action objected to claim 20 because it depended from a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 20 was allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21-22 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 25-28 have been added by the present amendment.

Applicants have cancelled claims 18-19 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue those claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claim 20 has been amended to include all the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 25 defines a method that contains steps similar to those of allowable claim 20. New claim 26 defines an apparatus that contains elements similar to those of allowed claim 23. However, new claims 25 and 26 does not require the use of a jet aeration device. Instead, any aeration device

suitable for aerobic treatment of biosolids may be used for the claimed method and apparatus. The Office Action had noted that:

The recitation of a process and apparatus for aerobic treatment of wastewater biosolids comprising a reactor with a jet aerator which is controlled by measurement of both the temperature and oxidation-reduction potential of the solution patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record.

(Office Action, Page 3). New claims 25 and 26 recite monitoring both the temperature and oxidation-reduction potential, but those claims are not limited to a jet aerator.

New claims 27 and 28 also recite monitoring the temperature and oxidation-reduction potential, but are not limited to a jet aerator. New claim 27 requires that, when the oxygen/reduction potential of the biosolids solution is below a predetermined level, the airflow through the aeration device into the biosolids solution is reduced. New claim 27 also requires that, when the temperature of the biosolids solution is below a predetermined level, the amount of shear generated through the aeration device is increased. New claim 27 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 13-15 and page 10, lines 1-5.

New claim 28 recites a reactor, an aeration device, a pump, a temperature sensor, an oxidation/reduction potential sensor, and a pump controller. New claim 28 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 14, line 5 to page 15, line 2.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 20, 23, and 25-28 are allowable in view of the foregoing remarks. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

A check in the amount of \$465.00 is included herein with the Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time. Please charge any additional fees incurred in connection with the submission of the Amendment responding to the Office Action dated March 14, 2003 to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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